

Oakleigh School

Newsletter



Spring 2018

Hello, and welcome back to school for the start of 2018. Thank you from all the staff for all your season's greetings, cards and gifts.

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REALLY IMPORTANT: Parent View is an online questionnaire which parents and carers can use to give views about the school at any time of the school year. We'd really like you to complete the short questionnaire at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/new-voice-for-parents>. You simply need an email address and a password to register. Once your login has been activated, it only takes a few minutes to choose answers to 12 short questions about the school, such as if your child is happy here, the quality of teaching, if s/he is well looked after etc., and whether you would recommend the school to other parents/carers. For more information about Parent View please see this information on our new website.



REALLY IMPORTANT: Tapestry

Hopefully you have your own log in for Tapestry, the online Learning Journal we use for sharing photos and videos of your children's achievements. You can download the Tapestry app on your mobile phone or PC. If you have not already signed up, please ask your class teacher for a form. If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.



WEATHER – We thought it would be useful to remind you of the procedures if school is closed or needs to close early due to snow / ice. The decisions to cancel transport are made by Transport, in liaison with others in the Local Authority. We then carry out a risk assessment, and make a decision as to whether school should be entirely closed, or open to those members of staff and pupils who can safely get to and from school. The decision to open also depends on having sufficient members of staff who can get in, to ensure the children's safety. If Transport is cancelled and/or school closed, you will receive a text message from us, and it is Transport you need to contact regarding

any transport issues – 020 8359. Please ensure we have your most up to date mobile phone number. Information will also be posted on the school website.

NEW TEXTING APP - The text service we use is called Teachers2Parents, and they have recently introduced an app. If you haven't downloaded this yet, please do so via <https://backup6.teachers2parents.co.uk/>



NEW WEBSITE - Pete and Richard O have been working really hard on designing and creating a brand new website. We hope you like it, and we would welcome any feedback, to Richard at richard.oconnell@oakleigh.barnet.sch.uk.



ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM - We are now registered with a company whereby you can pay for dinner money, snacks and after school club on line. You will receive a letter in January with your personal registration number. www.scopay.com

NEW HYDROTHERAPY FUNDRAISING PROJECT



We are in discussion with Barnet about a major building project which will include a new hydrotherapy pool and therapy rooms. This may also involve remodeling some of our current facilities. We will need to raise a substantial amount of money for this project, and will be setting up a small fundraising group made up of parents/carers and school staff. If you are interested in being part of this group, or have any ideas about fundraising for this project please contact Alison at alison.rees@oakleigh.barnet.sch.uk.

The PSA is registered with HMRC to claim tax relief via the **Gift Aid** scheme, which means that we receive 25p extra for each £1 donated (which doesn't cost the donor any extra). Donors need to complete a form, which is available via the school office or via this link on our website

✚ Other News

Staff

Claire, the Speech and Language Therapist, has left, and Jessica (SLT) is back following her maternity leave. Joe, our assistant caretaker left, and we have Alan now supporting Ian.

Governing Body There are two current parent/carer governors, Sameerah Siddiqu and Cristina Di Santo. Margaret Owen is now a co-opted governor, and Steve Holt is our new Chair of Governors. Barry Evangelini has

stepped down. We would like to thank Gilbert Knight (currently Vice Chair) for his many years of being Chair, and Barry for his time as governor. For more information about our Governing Body, see the Governor's section of our website.

Our **School Blog** is kept up to date with reports and photos of key events. If your child is involved in a special event either in school or on a school trip, it is worth keeping an eye on the blog soon after to see the write up. This includes any holiday activities such as theatre trips and family play dates which we run (Oops Playscheme is a separate organisation and is not covered by our School Blog). Remember to regularly have a look at our **Website** – www.oakleighschool.co.uk – it is frequently updated by Pete, including with community notices and useful information / links, including activities and services, toys and equipment and grant giving organisations.

All of our **end of term events** went very well, with the children enjoying their parties, dinner, Nativity assembly and church visit. We were very fortunate to once again be selected as one of the schools to whom London Underground's Northern Line donated £15 per child to purchase Seasonal gifts.

Equalities

Our Equalities target this year continues to be 'To develop closer links between families and class teams through a curriculum focus each term and rolling out Tapestry'. This ties in with our Family Focus Weeks and Tapestry learning journal.

Several members of staff did an amazing version of one of the Anansi stories for **Black History Month** in October.

Drama and music events

Tony White, via Live Music Now funding, gave a wonderful concert of music from the French Huguenot church. A cross-class group took part in a dance project offered by the Wheelchair Dance Sports Association. The training received by the teacher who led the group is being extended to other classes within the school.



British Museum

We are really pleased that our links with the British Museum are continuing, and this term they are creating multi-sensory workshops on the theme of Animals. You will receive details if your child is involved in a visit to the museum.



Family events

We have a lovely *Family Room*, and you are welcome to use it at any time, it is stocked with refreshments. Please let the school office know if you need anything. The *Workshops* have been going really well so far this

term – see the Dates section for those still coming up before July.

Siblings Activity Day

During October half term we had 8 children take part in our Siblings' Activity day. We used drama games, music and art to connect with one another and find out more about each other's family life. We also put together an original piece of drama, where everyone created their own characters. It was lots of fun.



Family Support Team

You may know already that we have a team of six professionals, who all work closely together with the aim of empowering you to help you achieve the best outcome for your family and to work in partnership with you to achieve the best for your child. The team consists of a Drama/Movement Therapist, Music Therapist, Child Psychotherapist, Early Intervention Co-ordinator, and 3 Family Support Workers. If you would like to find out more about this team, please contact your child's class teacher, who can then refer you on to the relevant person.

Clubs and sports events

Last term, we had lunchtime clubs for Drama and Dance. Our **After School Clubs** continue to be very successful, with a range of activities being offered, including swimming, Little Group and Communication activities.

The school **photographer** came in last term; hopefully you were happy with your child's photo.

Pets as Therapy Dogs

Dexter, our Cocker-Poo PAT dog, continues to visit each week with his owner Andrea. We are really pleased that we will have a 2nd PAT dog joining us this term – Edie, with her owner Adrienne. Edie is a Standard Poodle. The children respond really positively to him and his sociable personality! PAT dogs provide fantastic sensory experiences for our children, as well as the opportunity to learn to interact with animals in a safe and controlled environment



School Travel Plan

Cycle training

Some of the children will be taking part in free specialist cycle training, funded by Barnet. This has been really successful in the past, with children developing their skills of balance and co-ordination, leading to cycling on three wheels, balance bikes and two wheels.

Educational Visits

The children all seemed to enjoy their seasonal educational visits. Some classes have been accessing places in the community via public transport, although of course bus restrictions on the number of wheelchair



users who can travel at one time does impact on what we can provide in terms of using public transport.

For **Road Safety Week**, staff, supported by our dance club teacher were videoed doing the Safe Cross Code dance. Early Years classes took part in **Beep Beep day**. Classes made traffic light pictures, and turned buggies into learner vehicles. Staff and children dressed up for **Be Bright Be Seen day**. Classes practiced crossing the roads, using the marked out zebra crossing in the little playground, wearing high vis jackets, and with buggies and wheelchairs decorated. Classes took it in turns to go to the hall for a multisensory version of one of the Road Safety Week books, B is for Bus, which really engaged the children. Thanks to Lindsey for all her hard work with the School Travel Plan.



Walk Once a Week Scheme (WOW)

Your child's class is part of this National scheme, which encourages active travel by children and adults. For our school, we have chosen to set targets related to things specific to each class, such as not using the minibus to get to their local inclusion mainstream school, the allotments or the park, or possibly walking regularly around the school grounds. Your child may receive a badge, sticker or certificate for regularly achieving these targets.



Coming up...

Communication Surgeries

For children in Year 3 (and those in Reception who didn't have them last term), we hope to be offering you meetings with your child's class teacher and Speech and Language Therapist this term. This is an opportunity for the parent / carer, class teacher and speech and language therapist to spend time focussing on the communication skills of that child. You will be contacted with details of your child's meeting.

There will be a **Dance Club** assembly for the children involved to share with others the dances they have been enjoying at Dance Club.

On 22 February, we have a **Live Music Now** funded concert from the Durufle Trio (flute, viola and piano)

Fairtrade Fortnight – 26 February – 11 March. This year, we will be asking classes and families to make Fairtrade cakes and cookies. Simple recipes will be sent out nearer the time.



The Family Focus theme this term is 'Greetings from Home', and we will be asking families to upload videos of yourselves onto Tapestry saying 'hello' in home languages. This will tie in with **Community Languages Week** during the week of 12th March. Details to follow.

World Book Day. 1 March 2018

We will be sending home your £1 Book Token in advance of World Book Day. You can exchange this for books in local bookshops. Details to follow of activities in school.



Parent / Carer workshops



The monthly parent/carer workshops continue to go very well, with good attendance and very positive feedback. If you reply that you are able to come, please do attend, as the leader will be expecting a certain number of people. It could also be the case that if we are short of space, people not turning up could be that someone who wanted to attend is denied the opportunity. If you have any ideas of other workshops, please let Alison Rees know.

Siblings Drama Day We hope to have a day in February half term – details to follow. We are also hoping to trial a teen siblings pilot project later this year.

Bingo Evening - 10th March



Pamper Evening – 3 May 2017



Oakleigh and Acorn Cookbook – as a fundraising initiative, we are putting together a cookbook of favourite family and staff recipes. There is a letter included in this newsletter. Please return these *by half term (9th February 2018)* by email to Lorraine

Lorraine.ferris@oakleigh.barnet.sch.uk.

On Wednesday 7th February we are planning a **London to Lands End sponsored bike ride**, using an exercise bike. Details of how you can be involved to follow.



Donations and Fundraising for ourselves and other causes

The staff/family **sponsored London walk** raised almost £1000! This will be used towards our sensory room development project. Thanks to Lorraine Ferris for organising this fun day out.



The **Autumn Fun Party** was very successful, with lots of families attending, and raising nearly £130 for the school!

The **Christmas Jumper Day** for Save the Children raised £100. The donations instead of sending **Christmas Cards** raised £250 towards the hydrotherapy pool project. **Santa's grotto** at Oakleigh raised £115!



Easyfundraising Thank you to all **easyfundraising** of you who have signed up at **easyfundraising**. So far the 66 people registered have raised nearly £1780 for the school. If you haven't yet, please register as a supporter here: easyfundraising.org.uk. If you shop or book holidays online through easyfundraising we will receive a percentage of each sale. It doesn't cost you more and their comparison site will often save you money too. It's really easy to use, just a couple of extra clicks of the mouse!

We're still collecting!

Please continue to send in any vouchers/tokens etc (during promotional periods), including those from Nestle, Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsbury's etc.. We are able to use these tokens to get lots of great equipment, including books, computer and sports equipment. Look out for Oakleigh School in various branches of Waitrose, as we are sometimes selected as one of the charities in their Green Token Scheme. This particular scheme has raised over £1000 over the last couple of years.

Recycling

As part of the Shoe Friends scheme, we are still collecting unwanted shoes, which will be sent to Africa and sold to people who need them. The money raised will go towards building schools in Africa. PLEASE send in ALL unwanted shoes, remembering to either tie the laces together or putting an elastic band around each pair. For each sack collected, the school gets a donation.



We are registered with a recycling organisation for genuine **used ink cartridges** and **old mobile phones**, with the school receiving a small donation.

Recycle 4 Charity <http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/Home>. If you would like a bag for your cartridges/phones so you can send them to the Recycle4Chairty directly, please let the school office know, or just send them into school. Please note that they only take *genuine* HP, Epson, Canon etc cartridges, ie NOT those which have been refilled / copy / compatible brands. We are a drop-off point for all types of **batteries**. They get collected by <http://www.erp-batteries.co.uk/>. We don't earn anything but at least they don't end up in landfill...

PSA

The PSA AGM is on **20th March, at 10.30am**. Please do come along to hear about what the PSA did over the last year, and plans for the year ahead.

The PSA now has an email address - psa@oakleigh.barnetmail.net and a Facebook page - Oakleigh School PSA Group <https://m.facebook.com/groups/1460250597344111>.



This is a secure closed group, so please complete your child's name and class, and your request will be processed by the school office.



The PSA do a fantastic job in both organising events for families, and also raising much-needed funds for the school, for example they fund the running of the minibus which we use each day to take the children out on educational visits or to swimming at community pools. They also funded the Autumn fun party, the end of term Christmas parties for the children, and family outings during holidays.

Many thanks to all the members of the PSA for all they do for our school.

Please do support PSA events and activities, they are a lot of fun, and the success relies upon lots of people coming along!

✚ Requests and ongoing information

Photos and videos at special events in school

We really value you coming to support and share special activities such as assemblies, shows etc with your child, but would please request that you only take photos/video of your own child, as some children do not have permission for out of school use of their photos. Please also be extra cautious when placing photos/video on social media, and you may only do this for your own child.

Clothes and Voluntary Contributions

Please make sure that all your child's clothes are clearly labelled. We try very hard to not mix up clothes, but it is really helpful if they are named. It would be helpful if you could send in a pair of plimsoles for your child to wear as an alternative to their outdoor shoes in case they get wet or muddy in the playground. We are grateful for any voluntary contributions for snacks, cookery, educational visits etc..

Snack Food

As we are part of the Schools' Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, we do offer healthy snack options to the children. The fruit and vegetables can be pureed to make smoothies / juices, cooked or eaten raw. If you would like us to provide a particular snack for your child, or would like to send something in, please speak to your child's class teacher. We are also able to offer milk as a drink option in school.

Medical information and requests

- The nurse will need a signed consent form and a copy of prescription or recent clinic letter before she can give medication at school - if this is not provided, she cannot give the medication.
- Please inform us by telephone or leave a note in their home book if your child has a dose of paracetamol / ibuprofen / buccal midazolam prior to coming into school, it is helpful for us to know just in case it is required in the morning at school.



- Please inform the Nursing team if there are any changes to medication, including emergency medication. This includes changes to the strength of medication as well as the dose. This is to ensure safe administration of medication.
- The nurse is unable to administer non-prescribed medication. All medication, including individual doses of Buccolam, must have a pharmacy label that states the child's name, date of birth and dose to be administered and must be in the Buccal Midazolam box. All medication needs to have a signed consent form that you can request from the nurse.
- **For the safety of your child, children are unable to attend or remain at school with no Buccal Midazolam, if it has expired or if the seals have broken. If a child comes to school without Buccal Midazolam, you will be contacted to collect them. The escort will be unable to take children on the bus if the Buccal Midazolam does not fit the above criteria.**
- The school nursing team can help you with reassessing your child if they need a change to their incontinence pad size/nappies, but you need to liaise directly with the suppliers for date changes and re-ordering. You need to leave a message on their number at least 14 days before your next delivery. This will activate your next delivery. They can be contacted on 020 8349 7469. If you live out of borough or have a non-Barnet GP you will need to contact that area's continence service for your deliveries. **All children over the age of four are entitled to free nappies, please contact the nursing team to request an assessment.**
- If your child bumps their head while at school, we will contact you immediately. A head injury advice sheet is sent home with all children who bump/hurt their head at school.
- While we encourage children to have full attendance at school, if your child is unwell, please keep them at home until they are well enough to come to school. Details of our Health Policy are in your child's home/school diary. Children should be kept off school for 48 hours from the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.
- Parents are required to send all supplies for enteral feeds such as: Giving sets, syringes, adapters, extension sets and a spare Mic-key/mini button.
- Please ensure that all equipment needed is fully charged.

If you have any questions regarding any of the points above, please contact either the school nursing team, or a member of the Leadership Team.

Nuts

Please be aware that we do not have nuts in school for any of the children, so please be careful if you send in food

Home School Diaries

Please do tick the box next to the message so that we know that it has been read. ✓

Emailing teachers

Although we are very happy for parents/carers to be in contact with teachers via email, please note that most teachers are in class full time, and have limited time to access their emails. If you need to speak to your child's teacher urgently or if the matter is pressing, please either write in your child's home/school diary or leave a phone message for them with the school office.

Talk-Time Postcards

Your child has a Talk-Time Postcard. These are for you and your child's class staff to simply talk and record up to 10 seconds so that your child can share their news. The cards are write-on/wipe-off (please only use the pen provided), plus there is a clear plastic pocket for you to insert your own pictures. Please do use these as often as you can, and remember to keep it in your child's bag so it is available for us to record messages for home. This is in addition to your child's home / school diary.



School Uniform

[Smith's Schoolwear](http://www.smithsschoolwear.co.uk), located in both Enfield and Potters Bar, supply our school uniform. You can either go into the shop if you aren't sure of the size you need, or just order online, and they will deliver your order to school. We will then send it home to you. www.smithsschoolwear.co.uk. Please note that this is a private company, and Oakleigh is not involved in any of the financial arrangements between you and them.

Swim pads

We have a supplier for pads for children who need to wear them in the hydrotherapy pool, or in public pools when they go swimming. If you would like to order one for use outside of school, please contact Alison Rees at the school. If your child needs a swimming pad, you will receive a letter requesting payment for it.



Rather than your child miss their hydrotherapy or swimming session, if we have a spare one which another child has grown out of, we will use it for your child. Please let us know if you would prefer us NOT to do so.

When you visit...

When you sign in, please remember to turn off your mobile phone.

We are really pleased when parents/carers want to visit, and are proud of our open-door policy, but please be aware that if you would like to speak to your child's teacher, it is best to phone first so that we can release them to talk to you with least disruption to lessons.

Also, if you meet a child in the corridor, please be aware that some of them may be on specific social skills programmes, and need to keep focused on the task. Please be guided by the staff with the pupils.

Parking

The 1st car park at the end of our driveway belongs to the Medical Practice, and are for their staff only. Parking in our car park continues to be very limited. There are spaces for parents/carers to drop off their children but not to stay long term for meetings etc. We would like to encourage you to take your vehicles off site as quickly as possible. Please do NOT park in the place for disabled car users on the road as one of our neighbours is unable to get in his home when this is occupied.



Employing members of staff privately

We are aware that some families have private arrangements with members of school staff, in terms of employing them to look after children. We would just like to remind you that if there is a school issue, then you need to contact your child's class teacher or Head of Department directly.

Buses

This is a request on behalf of the bus escorts. It is really helpful if your child is ready when the bus comes to collect them in the mornings, as there are either other children waiting on the bus or other children waiting to be picked up. If you would like to set up a system whereby the escort contacts you when they are on the way to your house, please arrange this directly with the escort. Also, please remember that escorts are not allowed to leave the bus if children are on board, and drivers need to stay with the vehicle, so they need families to arrange for someone to bring the child to the bus or collect them from the bus. If a different person is going to be there to greet the child, please inform the escort in advance. Occasionally, if a child is unwell, the escort will contact you to change the route so that the pupil who is unwell can be dropped off earlier; it really helps the escorts if parents / carers are understanding in these unusual circumstances.



Speech and Language Therapy Home Visits

Our speech and language therapists are keen to do home visits during the school holidays, to support you in setting up programmes to use at home. If you would like one of them to contact you about this, please ask your child's class teacher to pass on your details to them or call them on 8361 1993.

Community Notices and useful information:

As stated earlier, we now have these as links on our website. There are many items which we have heard

about, which we think may be interesting or useful to you. Some are from Barnet, some from the Government and others are voluntary organisations. For further details, please use the contact details provided, as they are not linked to the school in any way.

Barnet Local Offer - Barnet's Local Offer gives children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families information about education, health and care services, leisure activities and support groups in their local area. See [Barnet Local Offer](#) for more details



Dates



Spring Term 2018

Events

Bingo Evening

Saturday 10th March, 7.30pm

Oakeigh and Acorn Cookbook Recipe Deadline

Friday 9th February

London to Lands End Sponsored Cycle

7 February

Fairtrade Fortnight

26 February – 11 March

Family Focus and Community Languages Week

12 – 16 March

PSA AGM – ALL WELCOME!

20 March, 10.30am

Pamper Evening

3 May, 5.30-10.00pm

World Book Day

Date TBC

Siblings Drama Therapy Group – half term

Date to follow

School dates Spring Term 2018

Half Term:	12 - 16 February
Monday 19 February	Children in
Thursday 29 March	Term Ends
Monday 16 April	Children in

Parent / Carer Workshops

For the rest of this year, we will be offering the following workshops for parents / carers.

Invitation fliers will be sent out in advance of each workshop.

Strategies to support eating at home	Thursday 25 th January
Dental care	Wednesday 21 st February
Toilet training	Wednesday 14 th March
SENDIAS	Wednesday 25 th April
Sleep clinic	Thursday 10 th May
Adult with Autism speaker	Wednesday 13 th June
Barnet Carers and BYCAS	Wednesday 11 th July